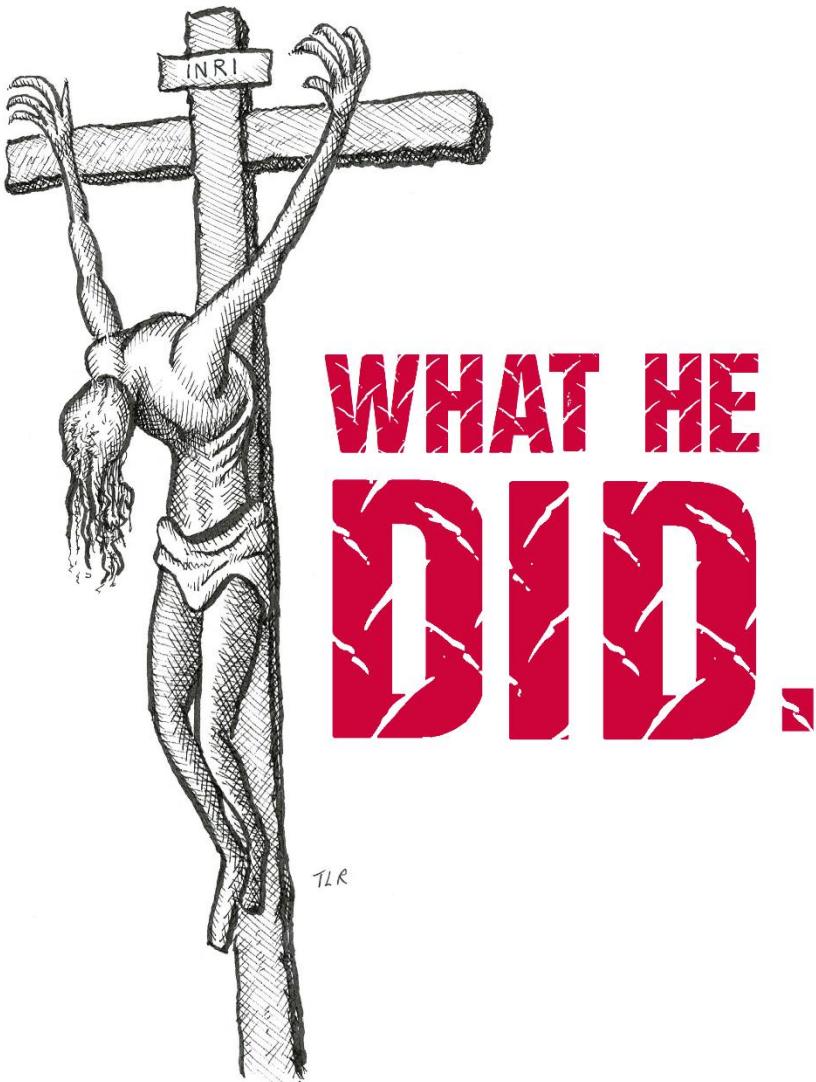


Studies in the EE Method of Personal Evangelism

# “IT’S ABOUT CHRIST...”



*“A man of sorrows...”* —Isaiah 53:3 (NASB95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA  
July 14<sup>th</sup>, AD 2024

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourteenth Day of July, *in the Year of our Lord 2024*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



## Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History, looking at historic debates over the nature of God.

## Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship: *\* “O, How I Love Jesus” (#281; Chorus only).*

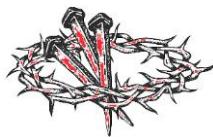
Invocation.\*

Hymn: *“Nothing but the Blood” (#264).*

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: *John 14:1-9*

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.



Hymn: *“Hallelujah! What a Savior!” (#147).*

Announcements.

Hymn: *“There is Power in the Blood” (#268).*

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES” (Pt. VI: On Christ).*

Closing Hymn: *\* “Calvary Covers it All” (#232; v. 1).*

Benediction.\*



### Week of July 7-July 13

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—13;

Midweek—No Service (VBS); Offering—\$1,317.00;

Videos: *“Matter of Grace”*—66 views; *“Be Prepared”*—98 views

NO MIDWEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY this week.

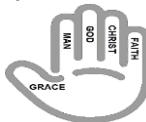
The *Evangelism Explosion* method of sharing the Gospel:  
This Week's Focus: "It's about CHRIST!"

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Recap of our prior studies:

- 1) Salvation is a matter of **GRACE**; it cannot be earned (Eph. 2:8-9).  
(Recall the *Hitchhiker's Thumb* in the "Gospel Hand"—a **FREE RIDE!**)
- 2) WHY? Because all men are **SINNERS!** (Rm.3:10,23; Isa.53:6, 64:6).  
(Recall the pointing, accusing **Index Finger!**)
- 3) **GOD** is **HOLY** (Isa. 6:3)—but in **LOVE**, offers a **WAY**  
(John 3:16)! (Recall the tall, central **Middle Finger!**)

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**THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: "IT'S ABOUT CHRIST!"**

In our "Gospel Hand" memory-aid, the **RING FINGER** reminds us of **JESUS CHRIST**, the Beloved Bridegroom!

Two things that NEED to be communicated about Christ...

- 1) **WHO** He is, and 2) **WHAT** He did!

- I. **WHO HE IS.** He is the infinite **GOD-MAN** (God Incarnate)!  
[NOTE how **central & essential** the matter of **Christ's identity** really is: Matt. 16:13-17, John 8:24].
  - a. He is the **one true God** (John 1:1, 8:58, 10:30, 20:28).  
[NOTE how the term "Son of God" is defined: John 5:18].
  - b. He is the **Almighty Creator** (John 1:3, Heb. 1:2) **and Sustainer** (Col.1:17, Heb.1:3) of the entire Universe. He does **Divine things!**
  - c. He is **God come in Human Flesh** (Mtt.1:23, Col.2:9, Mic.5:2, Jn. 1:14). He is true God and true Humanity joined in one Person.

- II. **WHAT HE DID.** He died on the cross and rose from the dead to **pay the penalty for our sins** as our **substitute** in order to purchase a place in heaven for us—which He now offers as a free gift (Isa. 53:6; 1Pet. 2:24, 3:18)!

**KEY IDEA:** The concepts of **VICARIOUS SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT & PENAL SUSTITUTION** are central: Jesus took **OUR penalty**, took **OUR place**, and suffered for **OUR sins!** He satisfied the demands of God's **holy justice** and **appeased His holy WRATH!** **ISAIAH 53!**

**JESUS paid our infinite SIN DEBT in FULL** (John 19:30)!

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>>"BUT... **HOW** do the Benefits of Christ's atoning sacrifice become **OURS?**"<<  
Next week's focus: "BY FAITH!"

**Pastor's Note:** I was looking this week at some old back issues of the *Brethren Missionary Herald*, which was the official periodical of the National Fellowship of Brethren Churches (NFBC; later rebranded as the FGBC) prior to the 1992 denomination-wide split. Here is a page from the Jan. 12, 1963 issue—which was hot off the press when I was born!

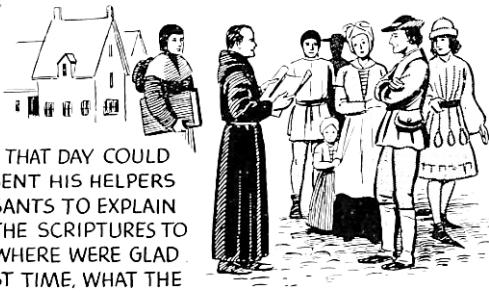
## Along the Bible Way

### The First Bible in English



## JOHN WYCLIFFE

A PROFESSOR AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY, BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ GOD'S WORD FOR HIMSELF. ALTHOUGH IT WAS AGAINST THE RULES OF THE CHURCH, HE AND HIS ASSISTANTS TRANSLATED JEROME'S LATIN BIBLE INTO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.



VERY FEW PEOPLE OF THAT DAY COULD READ, SO WYCLIFFE SENT HIS HELPERS OUT AMONG THE PEASANTS TO EXPLAIN HIS VIEWS AND READ THE SCRIPTURES TO THEM. PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WERE GLAD TO HEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHAT THE BIBLE HAD TO SAY.

CHURCH LEADERS WERE ANGRY AT WYCLIFFE AND HIS FOLLOWERS. THEY NICKNAMED THEM "POOR PRIESTS" AND "LOLLARDS" (THOSE WHO MUMBLE THEIR PRAYERS). MANY OF THE WYCLIFFE BIBLE WORKERS WERE IMPRISONED AND BURNED AT THE STAKE. JOHN WYCLIFFE DIED IN 1384, BUT HIS WORK WAS CARRIED ON BY OTHERS.



44 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, WYCLIFFE'S GRAVE WAS DUG UP--AS COMMANDED BY THE POPE--HIS REMAINS WERE BURNED AND SCATTERED ON THE RIVER SWIFT.

**EXCEPT FOR THESE BRAVE MEN, THE BIBLE MIGHT STILL BE A CLOSED BOOK TODAY!**